

### **REMARKS**

Applicant initially notes with appreciation, the Examiner's indication in the Office Action that Claims 40, 41, and 44-47 are allowable and that dependent Claims 18 and 24 would be allowable if appropriately rewritten in independent form. In this regard, independent Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations corresponding with dependent Claim 24 and intervening dependent claims 21-23, and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, rejected independent Claim 31 and all claims depending from Claim 31 have been canceled.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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